

Housing Workgroup Minutes

03/12/08

1pm -2:30 pm

Conference Room B: Judicial Wing-State Capitol

Documents provided or reviewed: Housing Section of the MFP Operational Protocol and the list of housing strategies

Members Attending:

Mike Anderson, ND Housing and Finance, Wayne Glaser, ND Dept of Commerce, Division of Community Service, Gwen Beckler, Dakota Center for Independent Living, Mike Zanasfky, Burleigh County Housing Authority, Peggy Shirely, IPAT, Tom Alexander, MIG Grant.

1. Tom Alexander reviewed the MIG purpose and its housing task force efforts over the life of the grant. In addition the issue of developing a ND Housing Trust fund was noted to be its current priority.
2. The workgroup discussed at length the benefits of the development of a trust fund in the state and state funding for housing. It was agreed that the MFP Housing Workgroup would support the development of a trust fund. This will be added to the operational protocol.
3. In an effort to pursue local preferences for persons transitioning with each of the individual PHA offices in the State it was agreed that a letter would be initiated by the MFP Program Administrator. The letter will include communicating the goals of the MFP grant and making the request that PHAs address the issue of establishing a local MFP priority. In addition the PHAs will be provided with a list of project based housing available in the state for use.

It was noted that many of the PHAs have very long waiting lists: Example- Burleigh County has over 600 individuals on their waitlist and is at 103% of its voucher capacity at this time and many of the other PHAs around that state have similar statistics.

Prioritization by PHAs has been challenged and is difficult to accomplish due to the significant needs of the majority of housing applicants.

4. It was agreed that a comprehensive list of project based housing available in ND be provided to the PHAs as indicated above.
5. It was agreed that a letter would be initiated to NDHFA to request that the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program Qualified Allocation Plan provide additional incentive for multifamily development and rehabilitation projects with set asides for the elderly and/or disabled. NDHFA will hold town hall meetings this fall with builders.

6. Several funding sources exist for housing rehabilitation current housing.
The workgroup agreed that a letter will be initiated to Ann Pollert, Administrator ND Community Action Association to provide information about MFP and the long term needs of the grant and the desire that they act as primary contact for housing rehab needs.
7. It was agreed that similar letters be initiated to the three entitlement communities, the regional councils, the Rebuilding Together program to provide education and offer individual contact.
8. A CMS technical assistance call is scheduled for May 28th at 2pm. Jake will send out the call information for the workgroup members to use